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Message Text

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ORIGIN SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 TRSE-00 USPS-01
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DRAFTED BY CA/SCS/RDBELT/AN
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CA/SCS/JWARD
EUR/CAN/G MONROE (PHONE)
OC/P/EFENSTRNACHER(SUB)
TREAS/AMAGNANI(SUB)
TREASURY/MLANIGAN(SUB)
US POST OFFICE/TGALLO(PHONE)
----------105140 242124Z /46
O 241902Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL CALGARY IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL HALIFAX
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMCONSUL QUEBEC
AMCONSUL TORONTO
AMCONSUL VANCOUVER
AMCONSUL WINNIPEG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:CFED, CA

SUBJECT:EMERGENCY DISTRIBUTION OF FEDERAL BENEFIT CHECKS
IN CANADA

1. APPROXIMATELY 50,000 FEDERAL BENEFIT CHECKS ARE
DISBURSED MONTHLY TO CANADA BY TREASURY'S DIVISION OF
DISBURSEMENT. NO EXACT BREAK-DOWN RE CHECK DELIVERIES
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PER PROVINCE IS AVAILABLE BUT ESTIMATES INDICATED
DISTRIBUTION AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL AS FOLLOWS:
ONTARIO-37 PERCENT, QUEBEC-27, BRITISH COLUMBIA-11,
NOVA SCOTIA-8, NEW BRUNSWICK-8, ALBERTA-3, ALL OTHER AREAS-
6. IN THE EVENT OF A CANADIAN MAIL STRIKE OR OTHER SERIOUS
DISRUPTION OF FEDERAL BENEFIT CHECKS DELIVERIES, TREASURY,
THE RESPONSIBLE AGENCY, WANTS SUCH DELIVERIES MADE VIA THE

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DEPARTMENT AND/OR FOREIGN SERVICE POSTS BY WHATEVER MEANS PROVIDES THE MOST SECURE AND EFFECTIVE DISTRIBUTION POSSIBLE UNDER CONDITIONS PREVAILING AT THE TIME.

2. BASED ON DEPARTMENT'S AND POST'S EXPERIENCE IN THE 1975 CANADIAN POSTAL STRIKE, WE BELIEVE MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS FOR DELIVERY U.S. CHECKS WOULD BE TO SECURE AGREEMENT OF GOC AGENCY OR AGENCIES THAT WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR EMERGENCY DELIVERY OF CANADA PENSION PLAN CHECKS TO ALSO DELIVER OUR CHECKS AT SAME TIME. WE ASSUME GOC AGAIN HAS A CONTINGENCY DELIVERY PLAN. ACTION: EMBASSY THEREFORE REQUESTED SEEK GOC AGREEMENT TO PERMIT U.S. TO PIGGYBACK THEIR DELIVERY EFFORT AS WE DID IN LATTER PART OF 1975 MAIL STRIKE WHEN CANADIAN POST OFFICE AND MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND SERVICES DELIVERED OR MADE PLANS TO DELIVER OUR CHECKS. DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE INFORMED OF CANADIAN EMERGENCY PLANS.

3. FOR USE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH GOC, EMBASSY SHOULD BE AWARE THAT IN 1975 THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE ACCEPTED SEVERAL THOUSAND CANADIAN BENEFIT CHECKS FOR DELIVERY IN UNITED STATES. THE U.S. POST OFFICE IS AGAIN PREPARED TO COOPERATE WITH GOC IN MAKING SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS. THE ACTUAL IMPLEMENTATION WOULD DEPEND ON CONDITIONS EXISTING AT TIME OF EMERGENCY. SUCH REQUESTS SHOULD BE MADE VIA EMBASSY OTTAWA AND THE DEPARTMENT.
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4. DEPARTMENT PLANS TO SHIP CHECKS AND OTHER MAIL TO CANADIAN POSTS VIA AIR FREIGHT WITH MINIMUM 2 FLIGHTS PER WEEK. BACK UP DELIVERY WOULD BE TO MAIL ALL ITEMS TO BORDER PICK-UP POINTS AND POST WOULD MAKE OWN PICK-UP ARRANGEMENTS. ACTION: POSTS REQUESTED TO INFORM DEPARTMENT, INFO TO OTTAWA AND NEARBY POSTS, RE COMPLETE ADDRESS OF PICK-UP POINTS. DEPARTMENT CAN ALSO MAIL CHECKS TO CENTRAL LOCATION IF THAT WERE REQUIRED BY THE CANADIAN DELIVERY PLAN. ABOUT 60 PERCENT OF THE CHECKS HAVE THE CANADIAN ZIP CODE AS PART OF THE ADDRESS.

5. CHECKS SHIPMENT FROM THE U.S.: IF CHECKS ARE SENT TO INDIVIDUAL POSTS FOR DISTRIBUTION LOCALLY BY CANADIAN AUTHORITIES, TREASURY DISBURSING CENTERS (PHIL., CHICAGO, KANSAS CITY, AUSTIN) WILL HAND SORT CHECKS BY PROVINCE. IF POSTS ARE EXPECTED TO DISTRIBUTE CHECKS, THEN SORTING WILL BE DONE, TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE BY CONSULAR DISTRICTS. EACH CHECK SHIPMENT WILL CONTAIN INFO INDICATING TYPES OF CHECKS SENT, I.E. SS, CS, VA, ETC. AND WILL HAVE TWO CHECK LISTINGS ARRANGED IN SEQUENCE ACCORDING TO CLAIM OR ACCOUNT NUMBERS, WHICH ARE OFTEN

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THE SAME AS THE RECIPIENT'S SOCIAL SECURITY NO. CHECKS WILLNOT BE ARRANGED ALPHABETICALLY AS THIS WOULD REQUIRE INTENSIVE HAND SORTING WHICH TIME WILL NOT PERMIT. IN GENERAL, CHECKS FOR A PARTICULAR MONTH WILL BE RELEASED BY TREASURY ABOUT 1 TO 3 WORKING DAYS PRIOR TO END OF THE MONTH FOR ARRIVAL AT POST IN FIRST FEW DAYS OF THE FOLLOWING MONTH. TREASURY MUST BE INFORMED AT LEAST 8 DAYS BEFORE THE END OF A MONTH WHETHER OR NOT CHECKS CAN BE MAILED IN THE NORMAL MANNER TO CANADA. ACTION: OTTAWA IS REQUESTED TO PROVIDE 5 MAPS OF CANADA WITH THE CONSULAR DISTRICTS CLEARLY DILINEATED AND 3 CANADIAN ZIP CODE DIRECTORIES FOR USE BY TREASURY IN HAND SORTING OPERATION.

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6. IN THE EVENT LOCAL DISTRIBUTION BY CONSULATES BECOMES NECESSARY, POSTS SHOULD KEEP THE DEPARTMENT AND OTTAWA INFORMED OF LOCAL CONDITIONS AND POST DISTRIBUTION PLANS. IN IMPLEMENTS SUCH PLANS, POSTS SHOULD GIVE FULL CONSIDERATION TO MAINTAINING THE SECURITY OF AND ACCOUNT-ABILITY FOR THE CHECKS. ALL PERSONS RECEIVING CHECKS SHOULD SIGN THE CHECK LISTING AS PROOF OF RECEIPT. IF DUE TO REMOTENESS AND AGE A RECIPIENT CANNOT COME TO THE POST, A THIRD PARTY MUST HAVE THE PERMISSION OF THE BENEFICIARY AND ALSO MUST SIGN THE CHECK LISTING.

7. MISCELLANEOUS CHECKS: IF MAIL DELIVERY IS SERIOUSLY DISRUPTED IN CANADA, TREASURY PLANS TO HOLD THE MISCELLANEOUS CHECKS WHICH ARE ISSUED DAILY TO PAY FOR VARIOUS SERVICES FOR OTHER PURPOSES LIKE TAX REFUNDS, ETC. IF HARDSHIPS RESULST FROM THIS, CHECKS MAY BE CONSOLIDATED INTO BI-WEEKLY CHECK SHIPMENTS TO POST. CHECK LISTINGS DO NOT ACCOMPANY THE MISCELLANEOUS CHECKS.

8. PUBLICITY: PROVIDING RECIPIENTS WITH TIMELY INFORMATION RE EMERGENCY DISTRIBUTION PLANS IS VITAL IN MINIMIZING CONFUSION, HARDSHIPS AND COMPLAINTS. WE LOOK TO THE EMBASSY TO PROVIDE NATION WIDE PUBLICITY RE EMERGENCY PLANS. CONSTITUENT POSTS SHOULD BE KEPT PROMPTLY INFORMED

SO THAT LOCAL AND NATIONAL PUBLICITY IS CONSISTENT. WHERE LOCAL CONDITIONS REQUIRE A LOCALLY TAILORED EFFORT, CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN TO KEEP THE DEPARTMENT AND OTTAWA INFORMED. CHRISTOPHER

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Draft Date: 24 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780523/aaaaasyy.tel
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2583897
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EMERGENCY DISTRIBUTION OF FEDERAL BENEFIT CHECKS IN CANADA
TAGS: CFED, CA
To: OTTAWA
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1f124597-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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